Implementation of poverty allevation programme in rural areas of AP

182. SHRI M.V MYSUREDDY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of poverty alleviation programmes being implemented in the rural areas of the country specially in the State of Andhra Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) the details of funds allocation made during this period; and

(c) the details of all new poverty alleviation programmes for rural areas of the country which are formulated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) The Ministry of Rural Development through State Governments and Union Territoy Administrations implements the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), the Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), and the Swamjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) for poverty alleviation and employment generation in rural areas of the country. National Food For Work Programme (NFFWP) was launched in November, 2004 as a preclude to NREGA and was subsumed in National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), 2005 with effect from 2.2.2006. These Schemes are being implemented in all the States, including Andhra Pradesh.

(b) and (c) State-wise of funds is done under SGSY and SGRY, whereas the NREGS is demand driven scheme. Year-wise Central allocations and releases to Andhra Pradesh under these schemes are given below:

(Rs. in lakh;

Name of the Scheme	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
	Central Allocation	Release	Central Allocation	Release	Central Allocation	Release
NFFWP	12214.72	12214.72	27199.63	30074.63	NA	NA
NREGS	NA	NA	NA	7624.96	NA	99961.43
SGSY	5305.97	5305.97	5305.97	5263.37	5885.70	5885.67
SGRY	23487.18	24049.88	28139.33	29453.70	10903.95	13545.64

Note: NA is Not Applicable.

Misappropriation of funds under NREG programme

183. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the extent of misappropriation of funds, based on audit exercise undertaken till now, in the National Rural Employment Guarantee programme, in relation to total spending?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): Ministry of Rural Development had requested CAG to undertake performance audit of the implementation of NREGA in phase I districts. Accordindly, CAG conducted audit in 68 districts of 26 States. CAG submitted its draft report on 17.12.2007

to the Ministry. The draft report has been shared by the Ministry with all the States. The State have given their responses to the observations made by CAG in the draft report. The State's responses are being examined in the Ministry. These would be sent to CAG for their consideration. CAG report on the performance audit of NREGA would be finalised after taking into consideration the responses of the States to the observations made by CAG Since the report submitted by CAG on audit of NREGA is only a draft report, it is not possible for the Ministry to give any comments at this stage.

Increase in number of days **for work under NREG Scheme**

184. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of districts in the country where the National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme has been made applicable, till date;

(b) the total amount sanctioned/spent since the implementation of this scheme and number of people who got employment (State-wise) till date;

(c) whether it is a fact that unemployment in rural areas in the country could not be controlled with it; and

(d) if so, whether Government would consider for increasing the number of days for work under the above mentioned scheme so as to make it more beneficial/subsistence for a rural family?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) At present, NREGA is applicable in 330 districts in 26 States of the country.

(b) State-wise details of the funds released by the Centre, their utilisation and the number of households who have been provided employment during the year 2006-07 and in the current financial year (up to January, 2008) is at the Statement. (See below,)

(c) The aim of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act is to provide for the enhancement of livelihood security of the rural households by providing atleast 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. NREGA is demand based. Under the Act, employment is provided to a wage seeker for the number of days of employment demanded subject to an over all ceiling of 100 days per household in a financial year. Members of the household may avail other available employment opportunities in addition to the 100 days of guaranteed employment per household provided under the Act on demand.

(d) There is no proposal at present under consideration of the Government for increasing the number of days of work under NREGA.